

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1299

To achieve operational control of and improve security at the international land borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To achieve operational control of and improve security at the international land borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Border Act of
5 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE OPERATIONAL CONTROL**
2 **OF THE BORDER.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The border shared by the United States and
5 Mexico, and numerous Mexican towns in close prox-
6 imity to that border, have experienced a dramatic
7 surge in crime and violence to ongoing activity
8 among rival Mexican drug cartels and criminal
9 smuggling organizations that employ predatory tac-
10 tics to realize their profits.

11 (2) In August 2005, the States of New Mexico
12 and Arizona declared states of emergency in order to
13 provide local law enforcement immediate assistance
14 in addressing criminal activity along the Southwest
15 border.

16 (3) A recent Government Accountability Office
17 report found that only 44 percent of the Southwest
18 border was under operational control, and less than
19 two percent of the Northern border is under oper-
20 ational control.

21 (4) It is the obligation of the Federal Govern-
22 ment to adequately secure the borders of the United
23 States and prevent the flow into the United States
24 of undocumented persons, unlawful drugs, and other
25 contraband.

1 (b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
3 land Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland
4 Security of the House of Representatives and the Com-
5 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
6 Committee of the Senate a comprehensive strategy for
7 gaining operational control of the international borders of
8 the United States within five years. The strategy shall in-
9 clude an analysis of the following:

10 (1) Staffing requirements for all border security
11 functions.

12 (2) Investment in infrastructure, including pe-
13 destrian fencing, vehicle barriers, and roads.

14 (3) The use of unmanned aerial vehicles, cam-
15 era technology, and sensors.

16 (4) Cooperation agreements with international,
17 State, local, tribal, and other Federal law enforce-
18 ment agencies that have jurisdiction on the border.

19 (5) Other means designed to detect, respond to,
20 and interdict cross-border unlawful activity and to
21 reduce the level of violence.

22 (6) A schedule for implementing security meas-
23 ures, including a prioritization for future invest-
24 ments.

1 (7) Considerations of risks to border commu-
2 nities and law enforcement.

3 (c) OPERATIONAL CONTROL DEFINED.—In this Act,
4 the term “operational control” has the meaning given such
5 term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8
6 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 109–367).

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